

ACTION
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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

(73)

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ACTION #BA-15

1314

KINGST 07598 141503Z

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 SS-15
SP-02 PH-07 HSCE-00 H-01 CIAE-00 IHR-10 HSAE-00
PA-01 SPRS-02 ICAE-00 ~~SS-00~~ IRE-00 / 88 W
----- 01669 141914Z /87

O 141440Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5302
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA
USCINCSO QUARRY HIC PA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7598

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/14/86 (FORBES JOHN) OR-P
TAGS: PHIS, PIIT, JM
SUBJECT: PHP CANDIDATE KILLED

1. (U) JAMAICA'S NOMINATION DAY BEGAN ON AN OMINOUS NOTE WHEN THE COUNTRY AWOKE TO THE NEWS THAT PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PHP) CANDIDATE ROY MCGANN WAS KILLED IN THE EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 14. A POLICE CORPORAL ALSO WAS SLAIN.
2. (U) MCGANN WAS THE INCUMBENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR EAST RURAL ST ANDREW AND, SINCE HIS FIRST ELECTION IN 1976, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY.
3. (U) PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MICHAEL MANLEY, IN A STATEMENT TO THE NATION, CONDEMNED THE BRUTAL SLAYING OF MCGANN "WHILE HE WAS CALLING FOR HELP" MANLEY SAID HE GRIEVED FOR MCGANN AND HIS FAMILY AND ALL OTHER VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA. HE SAID IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A CANDIDATE FOR POLITICAL OFFICE IN JAMAICA HAD BEEN KILLED. WHILE HE SAID THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT THE PRIME MINISTER REFRAINED FROM SUGGESTING WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER. THE AVAILABLE REPORTS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE. THE JAMAICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.
4. (U) MANLEY STATED FIRMLY THAT NOMINATION DAY AND ELECTION DAY MUST PROCEED AS SCHEDULED AND CALLED ON ALL HIS PARTY'S CANDIDATES TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT VIOLENCE IN TO DAY'S NOMINATION PROCEDURES. HE URGED ALL PHP SUPPORTERS TO PROCEED WITH NORMAL PLANS FOR THE DAY AND TO AVOID FEELINGS OF REVENGE OR REPRISAL. MANLEY SAID HE HAS ORDER A COMPLETE REVIEW OF SECURITY FOR CANDIDATES AND IS HOLDING AN EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING THIS MORNING HE ADDED THAT "WE DO NOT INTEND TO BE INTIMIDATED" THE PHP WILL NOMINATE ANOTHER CANDIDATE IN PLACE OF MCGANN HE SAID.
5. MANLEY SAID THAT HE HAD URGED JAMAICANS TO STOP POLITICAL VIOLENCE BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE AND THAT ONLY THOSE WHO WERE BLIND COULD NOT SEE THE PATTERN OF VIOLENCE OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS. HE DESCRIBED MCGANN'S DEATH AS A BLOW TO THE NATION, ITS HONOR AND JAMAICA'S REPUTATION. MANLEY CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS UP TO JAMAICANS THAT MCGANN'S DEATH WAS NOT IN VAIN, WHICH COULD ONLY BE DONE IF ALL JAMAICANS TAKE AN OATH TO CONDEMN VIOLENCE.
6. (C) THE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT IN WHICH MCGANN DIED ARE SKETCHY WE HAVE ONE REPORT THAT THE INCIDENT OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AT THE END ON A PHP RALLY

IN THE CENTRAL SQUARE OF GORDON TOWN, APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES EAST OF THE EMBASSY IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT MCGANN DIED FROM A BULLET THROUGH THE HEAD. ANOTHER REPORT CLAIMS MCGANN WAS KILLED IN A SHOOTOUT AT A SECURITY FORCES ROADBLOCK. THE POLICE INFORMATION CENTER, AS OF 0900 LOCAL HAD NOT YET ISSUED A STATEMENT

7. (C) MCGANN WAS WIDELY KNOWN IN JAMAICAN POLITICS AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN HIS PARTY. HE WAS A PART OF THE PARTY'S RADICAL ELEMENT AND WAS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN RECRUITING YOUNG JAMAICANS FOR TRAINING IN CUBA AND IN DISTRIBUTING WEAPONS TO PHP SUPPORTERS. EARLIER THIS YEAR HE REPORTEDLY HARBORED GUNMEN ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF HIS CONSTITUENCY CLOSE TO KINGSTON. HE WAS GENERALLY EXPECTED TO BE REELECTED BY A NARROW MARGIN OVER OPPOSITION JLP CANDIDATE JOAN FORDON A SOCIAL WORKER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE KINGSTON JAYCEES.

8. (C) DESPITE MANLEY'S CALL FOR RESTRAINT, IT IS LIKELY THAT MCGANN'S DEATH WILL TRIGGER FURTHER POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND THAT PHP ACTIVISTS WILL BLAME THE INCIDENT ON THE OPPOSITION PARTY AND, POSSIBLY ON THE SECURITY FORCES, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE FACTS OF THE INCIDENT PROVE TO BE.

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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TS AUTH. 1
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